

# The Circuit Writer



NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
Northern New Jersey Conference, The United Methodist Church

Summer 1983

Number 20

## PREPARING FOR METHODISM'S BICENTENNIAL IN 1984

The Historical and Archival Society of the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference wants to encourage you to plan now to celebrate the Bicentennial of American Methodism. A "Walking Tour" or "Auto Tour" could help the members of your congregation to understand and appreciate the efforts that went into building and maintaining Methodism in your community or area.

A "Walking Tour" would focus on the heritage of a particular congregation. A map and written guide would point out and tell the story behind cornerstone(s), stained glass windows, paintings and photographs, the church library, the church school, the sanctuary, and any other special rooms or features of your church building and/or property. The tour might also include the church yard, cemetery, parish house, parsonage, sites of previous church buildings, or any other landmarks of local significance. (Methodists in Vienna held their first meetings with Bishop Asbury in the kitchen of a local farmhouse. The house still stands and its picture is in the annual conference history published in 1957--on page 79.)

An "Auto Tour" could include visits to neighboring churches. Such a tour might be developed around churches that were once a part of the same circuit or the churches of one of our major cities. A tour might also retrace the route of one of our pioneer preachers or one of the many trips of Bishop Francis Asbury in our conference.

Such tours would be of interest to church school or confirmation classes, youth or U. M. W. groups and many other individuals and/or organizations within your own congregation. The Historical and Archival Society would like to become a depository for copies of tour maps and guides developed within our conference so that others might profit by your example. Please send copies to the

Northern New Jersey Conference Archives  
c/o The United Methodist Archives Center  
Drew University, Madison N. J. 07940

## A CALL FOR HISTORICAL PAPERS

The Historical and Archival Society of the Northern New Jersey Annual Conference is calling for historical papers to be included in the Society's 1984 Bicentennial Publication. It is requested that such papers be related to Northern New Jersey Methodist history. Papers related to general Methodist history will be received and considered. All papers submitted should be typed, double spaced, on one side of the paper, and should contain appropriate reference footnotes. Papers must be submitted by January 15, 1984 in order to be considered. All papers and questions may be sent to:

The Rev. Michael J. McKay  
150 Dunellen Avenue  
Dunellen, New Jersey 08812  
Telephone 968-4347

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 11, 1983

7:00 P. M.

CHATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Awards will be presented for the best local church histories published during the calendar year of 1982.

A program of drama and Wesley hymns celebrating the Bicentennial of Methodism in America

Mark the date on your calendar now and plan to join us at this historical event  
Reservation information will be mailed later.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUES!!

It is now time to renew your membership in the Historical and Archival Society. Dues are \$10.00 for each calendar year or \$100.00 for Life Membership. Enclosed is an envelope in which to insert your dues and then mail it to our treasurer:

The Rev. Dr. Frank D. Dennis  
Box 546,  
Madison, New Jersey 07940

Support the projects of your Historical and Archival Society by joining now or renewing your membership now for 1983.

We regret that it was not possible to produce the "Circuit Writer" in the Fall of 1982. This issue is the delayed issue for the Spring of 1983. For your record, the last previously published issue was Spring of 1982 and was number 19. This issue of the "Circuit Writer" is number 20

RESOURCES ORDER BLANK

Enclosed with this issue of the "Circuit Writer" is an order blank which lists several valuable resources for your local church and your local church historian or your committee on Records and History. Look it over and order what your need!

ADDITIONS TO "UPDATE"

The "UPDATE" of our Conference History 1957-1982

Mrs. Clarice Howe served as Conference President of United Methodist Women during the years 1970-1973. She was responsible for guiding the organization through the many changes that were mandated by the Church and the Women's Division during that time. Her strong leadership abilities were recognized by the Annual Conference, and after her tenure as Conference President was completed, she went on to become Chairperson of the Board of Global Ministries and later still, Chairperson of the Conference Council on Ministries

Edna Von Dreele is the first and only woman Local Pastor in our Annual Conference.

## LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIES

Each year awards are given in recognition of excellent church histories which are published by local churches within our conference. We encourage your congregation to develop such a history and to share it with others. Past winners of these awards are the following churches. The year is the year of presentation, the histories were published the preceeding year.

1974 First Church, Rahway; South Orange-Vailsburg  
1975 Wayne; Union Village  
1976 Milford, Pa.; First Church, Hasbrouck Heights  
1977 Stockholm  
1978 Wesley Church, Bayonne; Union  
1979 Cokesbury; Demarest; First Church, Dover  
1980 Vincent Church, Nutley; Finesville  
1981 Orange; Colonial Church, Oxford  
1982 Newton; Pond Eddy, N. Y.

## LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY CONTEST

If your church plans to publish a history of your local church in 1983, we urge you to enter it in this year's contest now. Large or small, pamphlet or cloth bound, mineographed or printed--all histories published during 1983 are eligible. Each church history will become a part of the Conference's permanent records and collection.

### MAIL ONE COPY TO:

Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe, Drew University Library, Madison New Jersey 07940

### MAIL ONE COPY BY FEBRUARY 1, 1984

## LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIANS

### SUGGESTED REFERENCES

Ling, Evelyn, Archives in the Church and Synagogue Library, CSLA guide #10, 1981  
Church and Synagogue Library Association, PO Box 1130, Bryn Mawr, PA. 19010

Vernon, Walter N., Guidelines for Local Church Historians and Records and History Committees, 1975, Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church

The Following articles in The Interpreter

March, 1980, p. 11: "A Time for Reflection"  
January, 1981, p. 37: "Archives & History Body sets Heritage Sunday"  
February, 1981, pp. 24-25: "Our Bicentennial"  
March 1981, pp. 8-10: "Celebrating our Unity in Cultural Diversity"  
February, 1982, pp. 25-28: "Restoration"  
March-April, 1982, pp. 11-12: "Heritage Sunday"  
May, 1982, pp. 18-19: "It Happens Every 200 Years"

## RETIRED AND RETIRING PASTORS

Have you made your tape recording of reminiscences and your very best sermon to be deposited in the Conference Archives? These are being collected so that we may have a permanent record of your voice and your preaching. Make your recording now. For further information call Paul E. Spiecker, Clifton, for details.  
Phone 684-4816.

## THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY CENTER

"Interest in history has always been important to the United Methodist tradition. By 1885 a predecessor of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church had formally organized a denominational historical society. The Association of Methodist Historical Societies, formed in 1925, was the first official denominational effort in Methodism. When the two churches united in 1968, the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church was born."

At that time the General Conference voted to create the first national archives center to preserve the memory of the past history of the Methodist church and a great "cloud of witnesses" beginning with its founders and early circuit riders. A temporary home was established in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, for the growing collection of memorabilia from the United Methodist Church and its predecessor churches. As the collection began to outgrow the facilities, it became obvious that a permanent home designed especially for preservation of archival materials would be essential and in 1978 the General Commission on Archives and History voted to locate the national archives on the campus of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. In 1980 the Council of Bishops adopted a resolution to support the building of the "Archives Center".

As funds became available to begin the project and with the formation of a national committee to help raise the \$2.75 million needed for the building, construction soon was begun and the cornerstone laying ceremony took place on November 21, 1981. It was both a joyous and solemn occasion with several bishops participating and a large choir containing members from various churches in the New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania area singing an anthem, "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", words by Charles Wesley ringing out over the frigid campus!

During the next several months of digging and noise and confusion the staff and students and construction crew tried to keep the eventual goal in mind and to tolerate with good will the temporary inconveniences.

By the summer of 1982 the building was ready for the staff of the General Commission on Archives and History to move in along with several van loads of furniture, books, and archival materials from the headquarters in Lake Junaluska. With construction still in progress and putting on the finishing touches to the building, the opening ceremony was set for October 2, 1982.

A crowd of around 400 people arrived in front of the building now known as the "United Methodist Archives and History Center" at 10:30 A.M. on October 2. With scripture reading, music of Charles Wesley, liturgy, prayer and litany of remembrance, the center was opened officially and the key presented by the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Drew University. Following the ceremony a reception was held at the center and guided tours of the building were offered.

The question may arise: What are archives? They are "living history, books and pamphlets, handwritten minutes and personal diaries and letters, records and maps, photographs and oil paintings, even brass keys, porcelain commemorative plates, and communion silver". All these will be available for the people of Methodism to see. The center will combine archives storage, library and museum areas.

The building provides a secure, climate-controlled atmosphere to house the present and future memorabilia of Methodism. Scholars, pastors, students, lay people, all who are interested will find important resources for their study of the United Methodist tradition.

The building contains four levels, two of which comprise a 180,000 cubic-foot vault. The underground vault, containing about six miles of shelving to house the extensive papers of boards and agencies, general conferences, clergy, laity and churches, is climate controlled with germ and fungus free environment. A special fire protection system uses halon gas to extinguish any fire without harming papers or people. In the technical services area is a Vacudyne fumigation machine which cleans all new papers to be stored in the vault, insuring against mildew, insects and fungus. There are also special water detectors to signal leakage and motion detectors to insure against unauthorized entry to the building. All this provides a secure atmosphere to house the present and future memorabilia of Methodism.

#### COKESBURY BELL

In 1984 Methodism will be celebrating its 200th birthday! It was just 200 years prior to then that Methodism became America's first organized denomination. Dr. Thomas Coke was sent to America by John Wesley for the consecrating of Francis Asbury. They called the circuit riding preachers together in December, 1784 to attend what became known as the "Christmas Conference". At this meeting Francis Asbury became the first bishop of any denomination to be consecrated in the New World.

A further action of the conference was to establish in Abingdon, Maryland, a college named Cokesbury to honor the leaders of the new church. After a fire destroyed the college in 1795, only the school bell remained and is now a priceless symbol of Methodist heritage.

As an appropriate commemoration of Methodism's Bicentennial a Limited Edition of 1984 replicas of the Cokesbury College Bell as well as a Limited Edition of miniature replicas have been cast individually in bronze. The large size, available for \$1,984, is 11 inches high with a unique number for each and has a desk or wall mount. The miniature is 3.5 inches in height and is available for \$35. More than half of the proceeds from the sale of these special bells will be placed in the Church Growth Fund. One of the bells will be displayed in the Archives and History Center.

#### TOURS

The center is open Monday through Friday from nine to five. Scholars, pastors, students, genealogists, lay people, all who are interested are welcome to visit especially after the unpacking is finished, museum displays arranged and collections put in place by the fall of 1983. Group tours may be arranged by calling in advance.

ORDER THESE RESOURCES  
FROM YOUR  
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
HISTORICAL AND ARCHIVAL SOCIETY

PRICE  
INCLUDING  
POSTAGE      NUMBER  
ORDERED

Please DO NOT use earlier order blanks

Revised 3/1/83

**GUIDLINES FOR LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIANS AND  
RECORDS AND HISTORY COMMITTEES**

compiled by Dr. Walter N. Vernon

A 40 page manual for Local Churches. Indispensable!

\$ 2.50      .....

**SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP ON HISTORIC OCCASIONS**

compiled by The Rev. Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe

Important resource for planning historical services

\$ 2.50      .....

**"UPDATE" THE NORTHERN NEW JERSEY**

**CONFERENCE HISTORY      1957 - 1982**

125 Anniversay Publication

\$ 1.50      .....

**THE DIARIES OF STEPHEN S. DAY      1895 - 1934**

Selections in Narrative form by

The Rev. Dr. Henry Lyle Lambdin

\$ 1.50      .....

**THE CIVIL WAR DIARIES OF JAMES B. FAULKS      and  
THE PERSONAL DIARIES OF JOHN SUMMERFIELD COIT**

narrative version written by

The Rev. Dr. Henry Lyle Lambdin

\$ 1.50      .....

**BRONZE GRAVE MARKERS for UNITED METHODIST MINISTERS**

Official Markers for the graves of United Methodist Ministers

The Bronze marker contains a raised figure of a mounted

Circuit Rider and the inscription "United Methodist Minister"

It may be bolted to the headstone or implanted in the ground.

(Bolts ARE NOT included.)

\$ 18.00      .....

PAYMENT ENCLOSED

TOTAL      \$.....

Please make all checks or money orders payable to Paul E. Spiecker

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ADDRESS.....

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Send this order form with payment in full to:

The Rev. Paul E. Spiecker

234 Valley Road

Clifton, New Jersey      07013